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14 December 1957

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Copy No. 138

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 36
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 2810
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
AUTH: HA 70-2
DATE 1-9-80 REVIEWER:

25X1

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Dept. review completed

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Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A003400360001-4

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1. INDONESIAN PRESIDENT APPARENTLY PREPARING
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President

Sukarno will shortly leave Indonesia for an indefinite period, although his destination has not been disclosed. During his absence, army and moderate political leaders apparently will try to redress Communist gains of the last few months, which have been greatly accelerated by the anti-Dutch drive. A government spokesman is reported to have indicated that Chief of Staff Nasution "will be in charge" during Sukarno's absence despite provision for parliament speaker Sartono to be acting president.

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Nasution announced on 13 December that the army will review all past seizures of Dutch property and will be solely responsible for carrying out future seizures. He threatened punishment to any persons or groups disobeying these orders.

The leftist-inclined West Irian Liberation Committee, which had planned and implemented the anti-Dutch drive, apparently is now intended to be of secondary importance. The army, nevertheless, has assigned two officers to the committee. Nasution has also assumed personal leadership of the aggressive Communist-permeated Youth-Military Cooperation Committee and has relieved the Communist-influenced officer who had served as its chairman.

No reaction from the Communists to these developments is yet evident. General Gatot Subroto, the deputy army chief of staff, is reported to have said in November that the Communists are better organized now than they were in 1948 when they staged an abortive revolt at Madiun in Central Java. [redacted]

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4. BOMBING OF US INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE

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[Redacted]

The explosions in Athens on 13 December which virtually destroyed the USIS library in Athens and damaged two generators at the US air base were probably the work of Greek or Cypriot nationalists, although Greek officials have suggested they were set off by Communists. Three years ago, in December 1954, strong popular sentiment on Cyprus in Greece resulted in mob attacks on USIS property in both Athens and Salonika. In the latter city, considerable damage was caused to the USIS library and offices.

The Greek government is fully aware of the explosive aspects of the Cyprus issue and the threat it poses to good relations with the US. The professional skill revealed in the demolition operation suggests competent planning and organization. The government has accordingly taken extensive security precautions which should prevent any large-scale demonstrations. Isolated attacks against American installations and persons will remain a possibility.

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5. ISRAELI DIPLOMAT SUGGESTS US JOIN BAGHDAD
PACT TO OFFSET SOVIET GAINS IN MIDDLE EAST

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[REDACTED]

During a review of the situation in the Middle East on 10 December, Israeli Chargé Alon in Ankara suggested that the United States should join the Baghdad pact to offset increased Soviet involvement in the area. Alon prefaced his comment by repeating his government's contention that creation of the Baghdad pact had prompted Soviet interest in the Middle East, upsetting the balance of power. He said, however, that he now felt no overt US security guarantees need be given Israel if the Baghdad pact were strengthened by US adherence.

Increased Soviet interest in the Middle East as the champion of the Arabs against Israel threatens to offset Israel's previous military advantage over the Arabs and has induced the Israelis to seek greater United States commitments in the area. In addition to seeking US protection via the Baghdad pact, Israel has sought security guarantees from the United States, either directly or in the form of a NATO guarantee of Middle Eastern boundaries. Alon's suggestion may also reflect Israeli concern over recent efforts by Baghdad pact members to obtain adherence by Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Lebanon, and the consequent danger that the pact will become increasingly a vehicle of anti-Israeli Arab policy in the absence of United States membership.

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6. IRAQI CABINET SHAKE-UP RUMORED

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Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Jawdat will be replaced shortly

Leading candidates to replace him are Arshad al-Umari and Tawfiq al-Suwaydi, both former prime ministers and members of the ruling oligarchy.

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Changes in Iraqi cabinets are normally made with the approval or at the wish of pro-Western Crown Prince Abd al-Ilah. Since al-Umari, an able vigorous leader who is friendly toward King Saud, is also persona grata with the crown prince and Nuri, he might be given the post rather than al-Suwaydi, whom Abd al-Ilah reportedly dislikes. Either individual would maintain Iraq's pro-Western policy and might possibly take a tougher attitude toward Syria.

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8. TRUCE COMMISSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUILDING
CASE AGAINST US MILITARY AID PROGRAM

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The American military aid program in South Vietnam is being subjected to increasing criticism by the International Control Commission (ICC) in Vietnam, apparently in connection with an accelerated Communist campaign to persuade the ICC to label this assistance as a violation of the 1954 Geneva armistice. During the past two months, the Diem government has received numerous strongly worded complaints from the ICC and requests for detailed information on the status and functions of various American military missions in South Vietnam. Saigon's responses have been termed "inadequate and unsatisfactory." During the same period there have been attacks on American personnel.

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The commission's investigations are being spurred by the Polish delegation to the three-man supervisory body, acting on repeated Viet Minh charges of an American-led military build-up in South Vietnam. T. N. Kaul of India, who holds the pivotal position of commission chairman, is believed closely allied with the Poles on this issue, while the Canadian delegation is in opposition.

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